

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00252 091502 Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-06

RSR-01 EB-11 COME-00 /138 W
----- 010414

R 091330 Z MAR 73
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4047
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 252

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, UNRWA, IS, JO

SUBJECT: WEST BANK UNRWA EMPLOYEES PLAN STRIKE

1. WEST BANK UNRWA EMPLOYEES ARE PLANNING ONE- DAY STRIKE IN NABLUS AREA ONLY ON MARCH 10. EMPLOYEES, WHOSE CONTRACTS ARE WRITTEN IN JORDANIAN DINARS, ARE INSISTING AGENCY PAY THEM EITHER IN DINARS OR AT FREE MARKET RATE OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN ISRAELI POUND AND DINAR. CURRENT PRACTICE IS TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES AT OFFICIAL RATE OF EXCHANGE (11.76 POUNDS TO THE DINAR). SINCE FREE MARKET RATE IS NOW ABOUT 13.5, EMPLOYEES WOULD REALIZE DE FACTO TEN PERCENT SALARY INCREASE IF AGENCY AGREED TO THEIR DEMAND. IF ONE- DAY STRIKE MARCH 10 PRODUCES NO RESULTS, EMPLOYEES PLAN GENERAL STRIKE BEGINNING APRIL 14.

2. CONGENOFF SPOKE WITH DR. ARAFAT HIDMI, HEAD OF UNRWA EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE, ON MARCH 9. HIDMI CONFIRMED THAT MARCH 10 STRIKE IN NABLUS WILL TAKE PLACE AS PLANNED. HIDMI ALSO SAID STRIKE IS NOT RELATED TO COST OF LIVING ISSUE; HE NOTED
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PAGE 02 JERUSA 00252 091502 Z

THAT EMPLOYEES HAVE RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT THEIR PAY WILL BE
ADJUSTED TO COVER COST OF LIVING INCREASES SINCE 1967 WHEN
AGENCY COMPLETES STUDY OF PAY/ COST OF LIVING RELATIONSHIP.

3. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSING PROBLEM WITH US RECENTLY, WEST
BANK UNRWA DIRECTOR GRAHAM NOTED THAT AGENCY SIMPLY DOES NOT
HAVE ENOUGH DINAR TO PAY WEST BANK SALARIES IN THIS CURRENCY.
WE SUSPECT GOJ, ALREADY CONFRONTING SUBSTANTIAL DINAR OUTFLOW
TO WEST BANK, MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO SEE UNRWA PAY WEST BANK
EMPLOYEES IN JDS.
DAY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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To: AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
TEL AVIV
USUN NEW YORK

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005